

CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.445.2636
www.controller.ca.gov

PR06:058
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

CONTACT: RUSS LOPEZ
916-445-2636

Westly Applauds Passage of Ballast Water Bill

SACRAMENTO – State Controller and State Lands Commission (SLC) Chair Steve Westly today issued the following statement on the Governor’s signing of **SB 497**:

“In January 2006, the State Lands Commission passed unanimously the toughest in the nation standards for ballast water, prohibiting ships from dumping water that contains foreign organisms. These standards require ships arriving in California to meet a ‘zero organism’ standard by 2020.

“As chair of the SLC, I applaud Senator Simitian’s leadership on this bill, which codifies the State Lands Commission standards.”

California law currently requires vessels arriving from outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone to manage their ballast water, but still allows for the transfer of organisms. The invasion of non-native species in California waters destroys marine ecosystems and costs the State billions annually.

In January of this year, Controller Westly led the State Lands Commission to propose a ban on ships dumping ballast water containing live organisms along California’s coast. The Commission adopted an aggressive “zero organism” ballast water standard by 2020. Westly also was part of a 2004 State Lands Commission suit against Carnival Cruise Lines for violating ballast exchange rules.

###